

2003 –601

June 16, 2003

**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
MORATORIUM UPON THE IMPORTATION OF
POTENTIAL MONKEYPOX VECTORS INTO THE COMMONWEALTH**

WHEREAS, Monkeypox is a viral disease that is contagious to humans and is carried primarily by exotic rodents, primates and rabbits; and

WHEREAS, the recent spread of Monkeypox is primarily the result of the commercial movement and sale of these animals as pets by commercial pet shops; and

WHEREAS, Monkeypox has a variety of symptoms and can be fatal to humans; and

WHEREAS, the disease's impacts on the wildlife resources of the State are unknown, but could be severe; and

WHEREAS, there are many unknowns about the epidemiology of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the disease has had outbreaks in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana; and

WHEREAS, The Cabinet for Health Services, Department for Public Health; Department of Agriculture; and Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources have overlapping jurisdiction concerning the regulation of the pet trade and human health and safety; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to protect the health of the citizens and wildlife resources of the Commonwealth, a moratorium on importation and the flexibility to impose an immediate quarantine on suspected infected sites would allow time for further research and solutions to be developed:

NOW THEREFORE, I, PAUL E. PATTON, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Sections 69 and 81 of the Kentucky

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Constitution, KRS Chapter 211; KRS Chapter 257, KRS 150.015, KRS 150.025 and 301

KAR 3:040, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

- (1) The importation of all rodents, primates and rabbits into Kentucky for distribution to the public is prohibited. The importation of rodents, primates and rabbits into Kentucky for any other purpose, must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by a certified and accredited veterinarian from the state of origin.
- (2) Neither the Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources nor the Department of Agriculture shall issue any new permits for the importation or holding of these species unless the animal is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued by a certified and accredited veterinarian from the state of origin.
- (3) In the event that a potential source of Monkeypox is identified, the Department of Agriculture shall quarantine the affected premise until the suspect or exposed animals have been either isolated or euthanized, and the site has been cleaned and disinfected under the Department's supervision.
- (4) The owner may choose to isolate the animals for 30 days under the Department of Agriculture's supervision and direction or surrender the animals to the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Fish and Wildlife for disposition.
- (5) In the event of a confirmed Monkeypox case in humans, the Department of Public Health is authorized to take any and all appropriate measures to address and abate the situation.
- (6) The Department of Public Health, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Department of Agriculture shall take all steps necessary to effectuate this Order.
- (7) The provisions of this Order shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded by the issuance of a subsequent Order and/or superceded by appropriate legislative enactment.

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PAUL E. PATTON, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

JOHN Y. BROWN III
Secretary of State